REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Brandon S. Hoffman for courtesies extended in the telephonic interviews conducted on November 10, 2005.

The Examiner respectfully is requested to contact Applicant's representative prior to issuing a first Office Action after the filing of the RCE to ensure that the Preliminary Amendment is entered and considered in the first Office Action after the RCE.

Applicant submits this Statement to comply with the requirements of M.P.E.P. § 713.04.

In the interview, the following was discussed:

A. Identification of claims discussed:

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8.

B. Identification of prior art discussed:

Urata (U.S. Patent No. 6,799,272),

Kawan (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,324),

Perlman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,261,002).

C. Identification of principal proposed amendments:

Applicant proposed incorporating the features of dependent claim 8 into independent claim 1 (i.e., claims 1+4+5+6+8).

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D. Brief Identification of principal arguments:

The "reader" according to the claimed invention, for example, as defined by dependent claim 8, was discussed.

The Examiner kindly stated that defining more clearly the features of the "reader" may be beneficial to moving the application toward allowance. For example, incorporating the features of claim 8 (and intervening claims 4-6) into independent claim 1 was discussed.

E. Results of the Interview:

Applicant stated that a Preliminary Amendment would be filed after the filing of the RCE to define more clearly the features of the claimed "reader".

F. Conclusion:

The Examiner respectfully is requested to contact Applicant's representative prior to issuing a first Office Action after the filing of the RCE to ensure that the Preliminary Amendment is entered and considered in the first Office Action after the RCE.

It is believed that no petition or fee is required. However, if the USPTO deems otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Date: November 10, 2005

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